

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Non-native Invasive Plant Management Project

Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision

Executive Summary

August 2013

The USDA Forest Service has decided to treat non-native invasive plants (NNIP) on National Forest System land in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) Non-native Invasive Plant Management Project.

The activities in the BWCAW NNIP Management Project are intended to implement selected objectives of the Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The activities would eradicate or contain existing NNIP populations and respond rapidly to new infestations in order to prevent the further spread of NNIP. Activities will include:

- Treatment of approximately 14 acres of known infestations at over 1100 sites in the BWCAW.
- Treatment of up to 40-60 acres of future infestations over the next ten years of project implementation.
- Using a combination of hand-pulling and spot application of herbicides.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describes three alternatives and their effects in detail. The Record of Decision (ROD) describes the USDA Forest Service decision to implement Alternative 2 and the rationale for the decision. Alternative 2 will best meet the purpose and need for the project and provides the best balance of maintaining wilderness character in the long term with low levels of short term impacts.

Electronic versions of the Final EIS and ROD are available on the Superior National Forest web site at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/superior/projects. Copies of the Final EIS and ROD can be obtained from the Forest Headquarters by calling (218) 626-4300. The contact person for the Final EIS and ROD is Jack Greenlee, Project Coordinator, who may be reached at (218) 229-8817. Brenda Halter, Forest Supervisor, is the official responsible for the Final EIS and ROD.